

National Association of Orchestra Leaders

34 Metropolitan Oval, New York, N.Y. 10462 • (212) 863-8997

May 5, 1980

Miss Mary Lou Burg, Chairman
Copyright Royalty Tribunal
1111 20th Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Miss Burg:

Under date March 3, 1980, I sent a letter to you with attachments objecting to the attempt by the members of the American Society of Music Arrangers to seek royalty for their efforts, arranging music.


I attach a somewhat revised copy of that letter and respectfully request that this attached letter replace the earlier.

A reading of both letters do not show any material change - just language. Copies were sent to:

Recording Industry Association of America
Nats Music Pub. Assn.
American Guild of Authors and Composers

Assuring you of our every cooperation, I am

Sincerely yours,


CHARLES PETERSON, Treasurer

cp/ac

National Association of Orchestra Leaders

34 Metropolitan Oval, New York, N.Y. 10462 • (212) 863-8997

March 3, 1980

Miss Mary Lou Burg, Chairman
Copyright Royalty Tribunal
1111 20th Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Miss Burg:

You will recall I phoned this past week regarding requests by the American Society of Music Arrangers, seeking a mechanical royalty for the efforts of arrangers of recorded music. Its President, Eddie Lawrence Manson claimed that the true status of such persons, arrangers are that of "independent contractors."

The American Federation of Musicians, the parent body and its locals, particularly AFM Local #47, Los Angeles, California, of which Mr. Manson is a member, as a union, has within its membership many arrangers including Mr. Manson. In fact, that particular local, as do other AFM larger locals, bargain collectively with employers, recording companies, producers of movies, television producers and others, for wages and working conditions covering arrangers.

I enclose several pages from the Musicians' Union Local #47 Directory of Musicians, wherein they list names and addresses of "music preparators, orchestrators, copyists, etc." There, under caption Orchestrators (arrangers), Page 364, you will find the name of Eddie L. Manson, the Mr. Manson that is now petitioning your Agency. Also enclosed you will find photocopies of several pages of that local's publication showing rates for "orchestrators-arrangers."

As you know, unions are formed and are tax exempt because they represent employees and since all Eddie Mansons, arrangers, must become and remain members of the union, obviously then, that fact, together with the above and the attached, refutes Mr. Manson's statement that they are "independent contractors." Under the Act, the NLRA, independent contractors cannot enjoy union status and at the same time be independent contractors.

Therefore, since the AFM including AFM Local #47, Mr. Manson's local, have represented and bargained collectively, issued rules and regulations, wage scales and benefits for orchestrators-arrangers like the Eddie Mansons, they should not be considered independent contractors.

I would be pleased to assist the Eddie Mansons in any action they may take before the National Labor Relations Board, the outcome of which may determine whether the Mansons are employees under the Act or independent contractors under the Act. The Act, the National Labor Relations Act.

Respectfully submitted,


CHARLES PETERSON, Treasurer

cp/ac